Numb. 97.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the News from Bavaria. *The* Country-man's *Proposal for a short War. Of the* Cevennois. *Of the* Scot's *Episcopal Clergy's Address to the Queen.*

From Wednesday March the 24th, to Saturday March the 27th, 1703.

Country-m. MR. *Observator*, I little thought to have diverted you from the profitable Discourse on *Reformation of Manners*, but I must beg you to wave that Subject at present, and give us your Opinion on the Publick News. I protest my Heart is quite broken, the *Jacks* and others of the Queens Enemies are very Uppish and Hector and Bounce as if the Day were their own.

Obs. Whats's the matter, Man! Is the Sky likely to fall? Are the *Jacobites* grown honest? Till which time they'll never be Successful: How came you thus Untwisted and Confounded? Prithee ease thy Mind by a Relation of thy Grievance.

Country-m. I have brought the News Papers for your Consideration; pray read that Paragraph from *Bavaria*.

Obs. What Cause of Sadness Man from this Passage? 'Tis a common thing when Soldiers are canton'd: The *Germans* were attack'd by treble the Number of *French* and *Bavarians* and the Loss as far as I can find was pretty even on both sides, which Redounds much to the Honour of the lesser Party; tho' the *Germans* and other Forces of the Allies are as good Men as any in *Europe*, yet we must not expect a constant Success from such vast inequality of Numbers: we must not expect to Conquer great Armies with Battalions and Squadrons of Forces. 'Tis true your *Almanzors* in the *Jacobite* Coffee-Houses at *London*, can over a Dish and Pipe destroy whole Fleets and Armies, with as much Ease as the *French* King can break thro' Solemn Leagues and Covenants; but the Fate of War is Difficult as well as Dubious; and so many unseen Accidents happen that the wisest Generals can make no Provision against them. The Success of War is not determined by Encounters and Skirmishes: and we find by the Management of the *French* Generals the last Campaign that they are so Conscious of the weakness of their Forces, that they durst not come to a decisive Battel.

There is no judging of the State of a Country in relation to the War, by the present Forces they have in the Field; but by the *Native Strength* they have at Home, by their Wealth and the Influence they have on the Courts of Foreign Princes. The *French* King has indeed a great Army in the Field, to recruit which he has drain'd his Country of the Flower of his Vassals, and to maintain which he has Rob'd his People of their Money. He has plaid so long for Universal Tyranny, that his last Stake is now down, and he cannot find another *Porto-Carero* to let him have t'other Kingdom for a Bet. Such is the condition of *France*; when the Allies are not in the least streightned by the Forces they employ in the War, by want either of Men or Money at Home, this is apparent in *England* by the Taxes the Parliament gave the Queen the last Session, which are so inconsiderable they can hardly be felt by the People; and which rather did arise by immense Debts oppress'd with heavy Interest, than by the present Necessity of Affairs.

Never doubt, Honest *Country-man*, of the Success of the Allies: never be disturb'd at what the *Jacobites* and the Enemies of our Queen say in relation to Foreign Affairs. For I'll assure thee we can Ruin *France* by letting the *French* have a Victory every Month. This you'll say is a meer Paradox, that Men should Conquer by being Beaten, and yet it is demonstrable. Suppose the *French* Tyrant should Invade *England*, with 40 Thousand Men, and we should kill him 10 Thousand Men, and he should kill us double that Number, and suppose we fought him four Days successively on the same Terms: Pray who is the Conqueror? When we have lost 80 Thousand Men, and he has lost 40 Thousand; we shall have about 7 Millions of Men left in *England* when he has not one left. Now Pray who has Conquer'd? If War does not again become a Trade, and if Fighting once comes in Fashion, you'll soon find the Fate of *Europe* decided.

Country-m. Therefore I would have every Souldier paid for the Men he kills. I have read that we had a great many Wolves formerly in *England*, and that they were all destroy'd by allowing so much a Head to every one that kill'd 'em, and the same practice is used to this Day on Account of Foxes, Badgers, Hedghogs, *&c.* Now if we allowed five Pound a Head for every *Frenchman*, it would be good Encouragement to the Soldiers: A private Centinel might very well kill two *French-men* a Day, that's Ten Pound *per Diem*, and at this Rate they would be as Rich as *Jews* at the end of the Campaign. For my part I would have the Souldiers paid only for the Men they Kill, and the Doctors for the Men they Cure. If ever I come to be a Minister of State (as I believe I shan't) I'll have this Fighting Work done by the Great: I'll lump it with the Red-Coats; I fancy the same Politicks may be used in State-Affairs as in Husbandry. If I hire a Man by the Day he will While away the Time, he'll come at Eight in the Morning, and move slowly on till Five in the Evening, the more Days the more Shillings; but if he takes the Work by the Great, he'll work early and late to get himself into new Business; it

would

would be the same thing with the Soldiers, if they were paid by the Great, they would be early in the Field, and would Mow down two or three Acres of *French-men* before Breakfast, and at this rate what a Glorious Harvest should we have? And I am sure our Queen would pay 'em well for their Pains.——But pray Sir what's your Opinion of these Relations of the *Cevennois*?

Obs. The *French* King has thought fit to mention at last the *Insurrection* of the People of the *Cevennes*; and his Gazetteer begins as usually with a Lye. At some Courts they lye when they do speak, but at *Versailles* like *W*——— *K*——— they lye before they speak I have often told you; that you should not believe what the *Paris* Gazett mentions, for the *French* Court have never yet blush'd at the many Lies therein mentioned. It is very difficult to get an Account of the proceedings of the *Cevennois*, by reason the *French* King has designedly interrupted any Correspondence with those People; yet you see the Letters from *Nisms* and other Places contradict what is said in the *Paris* Gazette. I have here the particulars of a private Letter at *London* in Relation to those People which gives a quite contrary Account to the *French* Prints, and one Enterprize of those People shows them to be not only Couragious but Politick in War. A Party of about 100 of the *Cevennois* being abroad, a *French* Garrison had *Intelligence* thereof and Detached a Party of the like Number in pursuit of them; the *Cevennois* having Notice thereof, laid an Ambuscade, into which the *French* Company falling were cut off or made Prisoners. The *Cevennois* stripping the Dead and the Prisoners, Cloathed themselves with *French* Regimental Cloathing, and pinnioning some of their own Men drove them before them as Prisoners to the Gates of the Garrison; who thinking them to be their own Men rerurned with Prisoners, they opened the Gates; and the *Cevennois* entring the Garrison plundered the same and took the Garrison Prisoners. I find those People are neither Fools nor Mad-men; tho' our Dayly Currant is pleased to give them the Title of Phanaticks: and as they have begun their Enterprize in the fittest Time and have laid a Regular Foundation of Liberty; so 'tis hop'd their Success will be answerable to the Justice of their Undertakings.

Country-m. Pray, Mr. *Observator*, What is your Opinion of the Petition or Adress of the Suffering *Episcopal Clergy*, in the Kingdom of *Scotland*; here it is in the Queens *Gazette*.

Obs. Let the Adress be what it will. I'll assure you, the Queens Answer to it is the most Prudent that ever yet I saw. The Adressers are Legally displac'd, and the Kirk of *Scotland* is settled on its Antient *Basis* of Government; and it is a Christian and Pious Advice of our Gracious and Good Queen to those Clergymen, *That they live in Peace and Christian Love with the Clergy, who are by Law invested with the Church Government in that Her Majesties Antient Kingdom.* After the Usurpation, when the Clergy then in Being were Secluded, and the Church of *England* was restored to its Antient Right; The Abdicated Clergy never Petitioned the Crown for their Maintainance or Support; they had a Party which supported them in the Exercise of their Ministerial Functions, and without doubt, if these Men have well informed their Hearers of the Excellencies of the Discipline of the Church of *England*, and have approved themselves to be Men of *Virtue* and *Religion*; they can no more want a Subsistance in *Scotland* than do the Dissenters in *England*, who Live here *in Peace and Christian Love* with the Established Clergy.

Country-m. These Men pretend abundance of Loyalty to the Queen; *I* wish they would show it otherwise, than by Addresses. Why do they not enter themselves on Board the Fleet, or in the Army, and show their Loyalty by Fighting for Her Majesties Government? Are they capable of no other Employment than being Parsons? *If* they can't Preach without Reading Common-Prayer; why don't they set up Conventicles, and subsist that Way as the Dissenters do in *England*? *I* am sure the Scots ought to allow them the same Liberty of Conscience there, as our Dissenters have here, and then they'll earn their own Bread without Mumping at our Queens Court. *I* am resolv'd my Son shall never be a Parson; if he can't turn his Hand to another Employment.

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